Expansion of facilities at AIIMS

1324. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY' WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) is expanding its capacity by addition new OPD and a 50 room private ward;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that in spite of expansion and increase in beds, still there would be hardly any possibility of getting admission in AIIMS; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to provide more beds for low and medium level income group patients and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. AIIMS Hospital has started running its Paediatrics and Medicine OPD from the new complex, which is adjoining the main OPD complex. A new 50 room, private ward block has also started functioning.

(c) and (d) With the expansion and increase in beds strength in the private ward, all the patients needing admission they are admitted without delay. The Institute's hospital (including Centres) has 1626 beds and it is well equipped. Increase in bed strength in private ward would indirectly help patients from all income category as it would ease pressure on general ward.

Introduction of telemedicine

1325. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a framework has been formulated, for introducing telemedicine, the delivery of healthcare services through the IT infrastructure;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the facilities required to be created in various States and their respective plans of action draw up, if any;

(c) the results of any pilot projects already undertaken for providing telemedicine in distant locations; and

(d) the details of similar framework created in some other countries and highlights of their experiences in the field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, as per the information given by the Department of Information Technology, a Technical Working Group on Telemedicine Standardization set up by that Department has prepared a document "Recommended Guidelines and Standards for Practice of Telemedicine in India". The document includes introduction to telemedicine, definition and concepts, standards required for hardware, software, data exchange and clinical devices security aspects and telemedicine process guidelines. System requirement for different classes and level of telemedicine centres have also been suggested.

(c) Some pilot projects have been undertaken by DIT to set up Telemedicine facilities in different parts of the country. Under the pilot project Cancer/NET in Kerala about 4.207 cancer patients and under the Telemedicine Project on the Development of Telemedicine for Tropical Diseases in West Bengal about 1000 patients have undergone teleconsultation. As of now 34 remote/District/Medical college/Mobile hospitals are connected to 12 super speciality hospitals located in major cities. The Department of Space have also taken up telemedicine pilot project as a proof of concept technology demonstration in various States of India like Jammu & Kashmir, Orissa, North Eastern Region, Lakshadweep Islands, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Kerala, Karnataka, etc.

(d) Details of such a framework created in other countries are not available with the Government.

Medical Bills of pensioners

1326. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that reimbursement of medical bills pertaining to many pensioners sent by North Avenue Dispensary under CGHS have not been made so far;